

## THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Hirsch Recreation Center, 3620 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH (29) with the following Commissioners present: Messrs. Smith, MacConnell, Nelms, Budig and Mme. Denno. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Simmons, Arszman, Finnell and Messrs. Carlisle, Pacella, Bigham, Thomas, Williams and Jones. President Denno called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

Ms. Simmons administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Otto M. Budig, Jr. After the oath was given, Mr. Budig remarked that he was pleased to be a part of the Recreation Commission representing the Cincinnati Park Board. He added that he replaces Roscoe Fultz who was an exemplary person and he will attempt to live in his shadow.

### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – National Junior Tennis League**

Diane Schirmann from the Athletic Division discussed the National Junior Tennis League. She mentioned that there are 300-400 kids from the ages of 7-14 involved in the program. The Quick Start program has lowered the minimum age to 7. There are 3 Quick Start Courts – Ryan Park, North Avondale and the new one at Madisonville. Over the years they have received \$650,000 for court

renovation and recently received \$200,00. Ms. Schirmann introduced John Singletary, tennis coach at North Avondale. Mr. Singletary discussed his love for the program and stated that kids who complete this tennis program can play anywhere in Cincinnati. Ms. Schirmann introduced Ms. Byrd, who has 3 children in the program. Ms. Byrd said that all three of her children love tennis and she has been very impressed with the program.

Ms. Denno said that she appreciated the work that our Tennis Division does and she thanked Ms. Schirmann, Mr. Singletary and Ms. Byrd for coming to the meeting.

#### MINUTES

Rev. Smith moved that the minutes of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's regular meeting for June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 be approved. Mr. MacConnell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### CORRESPONDENCE – None at this meeting

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

##### 2013 Budget

Mr. Bigham stated that the property taxes are set at the 2012 rate. In 2013, we will be asked to take cuts. We will be looking at assets and going through the exercise. There will be a Plan A, Plan B and Plan C. Plan A would be no cuts; Plan B would be giving up some vacancies, Plan C would mean cutting of assets and programs. He will be scheduling an information session.

Mr. MacConnell stated that 63% of the budget is Public Safety. Mr. Bigham added that it is his job to make sure that they think through the process.

Mr. Nelms commended Mr. Bigham on his foresight and added that as long as Mr. Bigham is proactive, we will make it through this process.

Mr. Bigham said that once you close something, it is gone forever. It's his job to educate them. He added that the good news is in the capital funds. We have received \$1.2 million to do renovations at Clifton. We also received \$150,000 for the Reds project at Roselawn. We will close Price Hill and Clifton for 11-12 months for the renovations. We are working through the plans. They will vote in December.

Rev. Smith asked if the Budget Information session was only to get up to speed on the budget. Mr. Bigham answered that it was an informational meeting only.

#### Special Events – July & August

Mr. Bigham discussed upcoming events for the summer, highlighting the Dedication of the Miracle League Pavilion on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Mike Thomas described the upcoming RiverTrek canoe adventure starting July 23<sup>rd</sup> and Mr. Bigham added that we may extend the pool season for one additional week because Cincinnati Public Schools don't return until a week later this year.

#### Camp Washington Playground

Mr. Bigham discussed the fire that was set at the playground in Camp Washington. The equipment melted so it was a total loss. Staff will be meeting to discuss the next step. Mr. Budig asked if the playground was insured. Mr. Bigham explained that we are self-insured with a \$150,000 deductible. Ms. Denno remarked that she remembered another playground fire. Mike Thomas answered that the playground in Carthage was burned a couple of years ago.

### 2012 World Choir Games

Mr. Bigham stated that even though Recreation wasn't directly involved in the planning and implementation of the World Choirs Games, we did play a minor role. We bussed the choirs to the Otto Armleder Pool at Dunham from Xavier so that they could swim.

### PLANNING & ENGINEERING

#### Capital Projects Update

Dan Jones presented his Capital Projects Update. He showed the Commission photos of the McKie pool renovation. The pool is expected to be completed in late August. McKie's exterior windows should be installed within the next two weeks. The Center is expected to open in October. He is working with CPS on the plans for 4 ball fields. 3 ball fields are under construction. They are currently installing solar panels at North College Hill. 70% of Mt. Auburn Pool has been demolished.

Mr. MacConnell asked about the future of Hirsch Recreation Center. He stated that they have some great programs. Mr. Jones answered that Hirsch is 4<sup>th</sup> on the list for renovation – probably in 2015. Mr. Bigham added that Hirsch has been on the “close” list and they need to determine its exact future.

#### Sale of Carthage

Dan Jones stated that the Commission approved that the Carthage Recreation Center be put up for sale at the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting. Since that time there has been considerable vandalism to the building. They only

received one offer for \$75,000. Mr. Nelms moved to sell the Carthage Recreation Center for \$75,000. Mr. MacConnell seconded. Rev. Smith asked how he came up with \$75,000. Mr. Jones explained that the original appraisal for the building was \$225,000. The considerable amount of vandalism caused the value to go down. Ms. Denno asked if the Real Estate Department handles the sale. Mr. Bigham answered that yes they do and the longer it sits the more it will cost. No one from the city wants it. The Buyer will be bringing some jobs into the city. Cincinnati Fastener will buy it.

Motion passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Golf Cart Contract & Lease

Rob Williams stated that at the May meeting Commission approved that CRC begin negotiations with Century Equipment. At this meeting Commission needs to formalize a business arrangement for the lease of golf cars and the maintenance of the cars. Mr. Williams gave background information and went over the contract details. We will have ownership of the cars after 72 months. We could pay a balloon payment of \$875 per car or sell cars to Century for \$1400 per car. We want to own the cars. Mr. MacConnell asked about the maintenance. Steve Pacella answered that we spent \$22,000 on carts that were 5 years old. We budgeted \$19,000 for new carts. Rev. Smith stated that for us to provide newer carts is good customer service. Mr. Pacella said that this gives us the most options at the end of the lease. Mr. Bigham recommended that the

Commission approve the contract in substance. Mr. Pacella added that this is because the Law Department is still working on the last piece.

Rev. Smith moved that the Commission approve the contract with Century Equipment in substance for the Lease and Maintenance of golf cars. Mr. Nelms seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Rev. Smith added that Reeves has no shelter for carts. Mr. Williams agreed and stated that there currently no funds for that but they are looking at it.

## NEW BUSINESS

### BCG Minimum Revenue Waiver

Mr. Pacella discussed a letter that he received regarding consideration of a minimum revenue waiver for Billy Casper Golf. Weather affected the whole area and we have given BCG a waiver previously. Rev. Smith asked if this was normal with other BCG contracts. Joe Livingood, Senior VP of Billy Casper Golf answered that this was addressed back in 2002, because they needed to address situations that were beyond the control of BCG and that the language in the contract is standard. Rev. Smith asked how we determine when that kicks in. Mr. Pacella answered that it is whenever there is a declared State of Emergency.

Mr. Livingood added that revenues were off considerably. They had to make some tough decisions but they responded the best they could. It was outside of their control. There was double the amount of normal rainfall. They weren't able to open the courses. Ms. Denno asked about the amount. Mr. Livingood answered \$132,000. Rev. Smith stated that he didn't think anyone

would disagree that the courses were hit hard. Paul Holzderber, General Manager of Billy Casper Golf, stated that some courses were unplayable and they were unable to open. Mr. Livingood added that that is why the language is there. They did everything they could.

Mr. Nelms said that a precedent was set in previous years. Mr. MacConnell added that we have a great relationship with Billy Casper, but we are both taking risks on what the weather will be. We're both losing money. Mr. Livingood said that we've come to compromise. We have ups and downs, but this was a national disaster. They are coming here to request a full waiver.

Mr. Budig asked if there was an incentive if it goes the other way. Mr. Livingood answered yes. Rev. Smith said that it's a mutual agreement. BCG has a right to come here to request a waiver. He thinks it is fair. Mr. Nelms asked what Mr. Bigham thinks. Mr. Bigham answered that BCG has done an exceptional job. They cut expenses more than we could if we had been running the courses. It's based on gross, not net. There is give and take on both sides. He believes that the fair amount would be a 50% waiver - \$68,000. Mr. MacConnell said that it's a different economy and he can't justify it.

Ms. Denno restated Mr. Bigham's recommendation of \$68,000 and asked for a motion. Mr. Budig moved to approve a minimum revenue waiver of \$68,000 for Billy Casper Golf. Rev. Smith seconded.

Motion Passed. Mr. MacConnell voted no. Mr. Budig, Mr. Nelms and Rev. Smith voted yes.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, August 21st at 3:00pm at LeBlond Recreation Center, 2335 Riverside Dr., Cincinnati (02).

Mr. Nelms moved that the Meeting of the Public Recreation Commission be adjourned. Motion seconded by Rev. Smith.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned by President Dawn Denno at 4:40 pm.

---

Dawn Denno, President

---

Christopher Bigham, Director

/ba

Minutes prepared by Bunny Arszman